Shree Samsthan Gokarn Partagali Jeevottam Math, Partagali, South Goa

Shree Samsthan Gokarn Partagali Jeevottam Math is a highly revered and historically significant institution for the Gowda Saraswat Brahmin (GSB) community, especially in Goa and the Konkan region.

Here is a summary of its history, philosophy, and significance:

🏛️ Key Facts about Partagali Mutt

Aspect	Details
Full Name	Shree Samsthan Gokarn Partagali Jeevottam Math (also known as Partagali Math or Gokarna Matha)
Location	Partagali, Canacona, South Goa, on the banks of the **Kushavati River**.
Year of Origin	Established around **1475 A.D.** at Badrikashrama in the Himalayas.
Philosophical Order	**Dvaita Vedanta**, the system established by Jagadguru **Madhvacharya**.
Presiding Deities	Lord **Shri Veera Vittala** and Lord **Shri Rama**.
Current Pontiff	**H.H. Shrimad Vidyadheesh Teerth Swamiji** (24th in the pontifical lineage).

History and Lineage

1. **Foundation (1475 A.D.)**

* The Math's lineage began when **Shree Ramachandra Teertha, the 10th Mathadhipati of Shree Palimaru Math (one of Udupi's Ashta Mathas),** initiated a Saraswat Brahmachari named Madhav into Sanyasa (renunciation) at Badrikashrama.

* The new pontiff was named **Shree Narayana Teertha** and was entrusted with the mission of uniting and guiding the Saraswat Brahmin community, who were beginning to disperse due to political turmoil.

* Shree Narayana Teertha established the first math in Varanasi (Kashi) and later a second one in Bhatkal, Karnataka.

2. **Rise to Prominence**

* The Math gained great prominence under its illustrious third pontiff, Shrimad Jeevottam Teerth Shripad Vader Swamiji (1518–1588 A.D.). His long tenure was vital for the

community, and the Math came to be popularly known as 'Jeevottam Math' or 'Gokarn Partagali Jeevottam Math' in his honor.

* The headquarters were eventually shifted to Partagali in Goa.

3. **Role for GSB Community**

* The Math is considered the first and most important Dvaita Vaishnava centre for the Gaud Saraswat Brahmin community.

* It has played a crucial role for over 500 years in preserving the GSB's spiritual, cultural, and social identity, especially during periods of religious persecution like the Portuguese Inquisition in Goa, when it served as a refuge and rallying point for traditions.

🌟 Significance and Activities

* **Spiritual Guidance**: The Math follows the unbroken tradition of Guru-Shishya Parampara (master-disciple lineage) and upholds the Dvaita Vedanta philosophy, emphasizing devotion to Lord Vishnu (Vaishnava sect).

* **Social Welfare:** The Math is actively involved in social initiatives, including education and health, through trusts like the Vidyadhiraj Charitable Trust.

* **Cultural Preservation**: It maintains a repository of ancient manuscripts, idols, and customs, ensuring the continuity of the community's heritage.

Here are the details on the current pontiff, the main deities, and the major festivals:

1. 🕉️ The Current Pontiff

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Aspect	Detail
Title	**H.H. Shrimad Vidyadheesh Teerth Shripad Vader Swamiji**
Ordinal Number	**24th** in the unbroken pontifical lineage (Guru-Shishya Parampara).
Date of *Pattabhisheka*	**July 30, 2021** (He assumed the highest spiritual seat).
Poorvashrama Name	Uday Bhat Sharma
Initiation (Sanyasa)	He was initiated into sanyasa (renunciation) by his guru, the late H.H. Shrimad Vidyadhiraj Teerth Swamiji (the 23rd Pontiff), in February 2017.
Role and Focus	He continues to uphold the Dvaita philosophy, guide the GSB community, and promotes spiritual and cultural activities, including the historic 550th-year celebrations of the Math tradition.

2. 🔱 **Main Deities and Temples**

The Partagali Math is centered around the worship of Lord Vishnu, following the Dvaita tradition. The main deities, known as Charaprathishta (movable installation) idols, are:

* **Lord Shri Veera Vittala:**

* This idol is a powerful form of Lord Vishnu worshipped widely in the Konkan and Karnataka regions, similar to the deity in Pandharpur.

* It was discovered by the illustrious third pontiff, Shrimad Jeevottam Teerth Swamiji, during his pilgrimage to the Gandaki River, and is the principal deity of the Math's personal worship.

* **Lord Shri Rama:**

* This sacred idol was originally presented to the first pontiff, Shree Narayana Teertha, by his Guru, Shree Ramachandra Teerth of Shree Palimaru Math, Udupi, upon his initiation into sanyasa.

* Lord Rama is revered as the ultimate source of virtue (Maryada Purushottam).

Additional Significance

The Math complex houses the Vrindavanas (Samadhis/Shrines) of many of the previous pontiffs, which are also highly revered and represent the unbroken spiritual continuity of the institution.

3. ✨ **Major Festivals and Rituals**

A number of festivals are celebrated throughout the year with great devotion and traditional rituals:

* **Shri Ram Navami (The Principal Festival):**

* This is the most important festival, marking the birth of Lord Rama.

* The celebration includes the Rathotsav (Chariot Festival), where the deity's idol is placed in the Math's centuries-old wooden chariot and pulled by devotees amid chanting and traditional music. It typically runs for multiple days in the Hindu month of Chaitra (March/April).

* **Chaturmasya Vrata:**

* A four-month period of austerity and intense spiritual practice observed by the Swamiji, beginning around Ashadha Ekadashi (July). This is a very significant time for the followers.

* **Vardhanti Utsav**:

  * The birthday celebration of the current pontiff, Shrimad Vidyadheesh Teerth Swamiji.

* **Guru Punyatithi / Aradhana:**

  * The annual ritual observed to commemorate the day when the previous Swamijis attained Mahanirvana (moksha). The Aradhana of the predecessor, Shrimad Vidyadhiraj Teerth Swamiji, is a major annual event.

* **Recent Special Celebration (550th Year):**

  * The Math recently celebrated its Sardha Panchashatamanotsava (550th Year Celebration), which featured massive spiritual and cultural events, including a grand Shree Ram Rath Yatra and the unveiling of a 77-foot bronze idol of Lord Rama.

Here is a brief description of the Partagali Math's core philosophy and its branch Mathas:

💡 **Philosophical Foundation (Dvaita Vedanta)**

The Shree Samsthan Gokarn Partagali Jeevottam Math adheres strictly to the Dvaita Vedanta (Dualistic School of thought), founded by the 13th-century philosopher Jagadguru Madhvacharya.

Key Principles:

* **Dualism (Dvaita**): The central tenet is the eternal and fundamental distinction between the Supreme God (Vishnu/Narayana/Brahman) and the individual soul (Jiva). They are not one (unlike in Advaita Vedanta).

* **Fivefold Differences (Pancha Bheda):** Dvaita posits five eternal and real differences:

  * God and Jiva (soul)
  * God and Matter (Universe)
  * Jiva and Jiva (souls are distinct)
  * Jiva and Matter
  * Matter and Matter

* **Supremacy of Vishnu**: Lord Vishnu (Shri Veera Vittala, Shri Rama) is the only independent reality (Svatantra Tattva). All others (souls and matter) are dependent realities (Paratantra Tattva).

* **Means to Liberation (Moksha):** Liberation is attained through Bhakti (unalloyed devotion) to Lord Vishnu, coupled with genuine knowledge and performance of one's prescribed duties.

* **Reality of the World**: The world is seen as real, not an illusion (Mithya), because it is created by God.

In essence, the Math teaches its followers to serve and devote themselves to the Supreme God, recognizing their own dependent nature.

🗺️ Branch Mathas (Shaka Mathas)

To cater to the spiritual and ritual needs of the geographically dispersed GSB community, the Partagali Math established several branch Maths or Shaka Mathas. These branches help to extend the reach of the pontiff's guidance and the Dvaita tradition.

Location	Significance
Kavale, Ponda, Goa	A very important branch math, it is often utilized for specific religious rites and gatherings within Goa, making the Math's resources accessible to devotees in the interior part of the state.
Mangaluru (Bolar), Karnataka	Serves the GSB community in the Dakshina Kannada region, which has a large concentration of devotees. It acts as a major spiritual center in coastal Karnataka.
Varanasi (Kashi), Uttar Pradesh	Historically significant as the location of the Math's **first establishment** by Shree Narayana Teertha. It maintains the connection to the holy city of Kashi.
Peral, Kerala	This branch extends the Math's reach to the southernmost part of the GSB community in the Kasaragod region.
Mumbai, Maharashtra	A modern branch established to serve the large population of GSBs who have migrated to the business and cultural capital of India.

These branch Mathas ensure that the spiritual guidance, traditional rituals, and philosophical teachings of the main Math at Partagali remain available to followers across India's west coast and beyond.

Guru-Shishya Parampara (the unbroken line of masters and disciples) is the lifeblood of any Math. The Partagali Math boasts an ancient and unbroken lineage of 24 pontiffs spanning over 550 years (since 1475 A.D.).

Here is a description of the Guru Parampara of Shree Samsthan Gokarn Partagali Jeevottam Math:

📜 Guru-Shishya Parampara

The entire lineage traces its roots back to the Dvaita philosophy of Jagadguru Madhvacharya through one of his eight original Maths (the Ashta Mathas) in Udupi.

Key Aspects of the Lineage:

* **Origin (1475 A.D.):** The Math's tradition started when the 10th pontiff of Shree Palimaru Math, Udupi (one of the Ashta Mathas), Shree Ramachandra Teertha, initiated a Saraswat Brahmachari named Madhav into Sanyasa at Badarikashrama (Himalayas).

* **The First Pontiff**: The newly initiated monk was named Shree Narayana Teertha (1st Pontiff). He was entrusted with the duty of guiding the scattered Saraswat Brahmin community and was given the sacred idol of Lord Rama, which is still worshipped as a presiding deity.

* **The Naming Guru (3rd Pontiff):** The most significant figure is Shrimad Jeevottam Teerth Shripad Vader Swamiji (3rd Pontiff). His exceptional 70-year tenure and spiritual achievements were so profound that the institution came to be popularly known by his name, hence 'Jeevottam Math'.

* **The Tradition:** Each pontiff, before his Mahanirvana (passing away), selects and initiates a qualified disciple (Shishya) into sanyasa, thus ensuring the continuity of the spiritual and administrative authority. This disciple is then formally crowned (Pattabhisheka) as the next pontiff.

* **The Vrindavanas**: The Vrindavanas (Samadhi shrines) of many of the previous pontiffs are located at the headquarters in Partagali and also in other places like Bhatkal, serving as sacred sites for devotees.

⭐ **The Pontifical Lineage (Partial List)**

The list below highlights some of the most notable figures in the Math's long history, from its founding to the present day:

This unbroken chain of spiritual masters is what gives the Partagali Math its authority and continuous guidance for the Gowda Saraswat Brahmin community in following the Dvaita tradition.

Pontiff's Name (H.H. Shrimad...)	Period (Approx.)	Significance / Key Contribution
Narayana Teerth	1475 – 1517	**Founder of the lineage**, established the first Math in Kashi, and later in Bhatkal.
Vasudeva Teerth	1517 – 1518	
Jeevottam Teerth	1518 – 1588	**Gave the Math its popular name**, discovered the idol of **Shri Veera Vittala**, and spread the faith widely.
Purushottam Teerth	1588	
Anujeevottam Teerth	1589 – 1637	
Ramchandra Teerth	1637 – 1665	Established the Math and Temple of Lord Rama at **Partagali**, making it the main headquarters.
Digvijayaramchandra Teerth	1665 – 1669	Started the annual **Rathotsav (Chariot Festival)** at Partagali.
Raghuchandra Teerth	1669 – 1682	Procured land for a Vaishnava Math in Kashi.
Indirakanta Teerth	1892 – 1942	
Dwarakanath Teerth	1943 – 1973	Established new branch maths in major cities like Mumbai and Bengaluru.
Vidyadhiraj Teerth	1973 – 2021	Long and highly respected tenure; undertook extensive renovation and construction of temples and Math branches.
Vidyadheesh Teerth	2021 – Present	The **current pontiff**, who is carrying forward the 550-year-old legacy.

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The Shrimad Jeevottam Teerth Shripad Vader Swamiji (3rd Pontiff) holds a monumental place in the history of the Math. His contributions were so profound that the institution is popularly known today as Shree Samsthan Gokarn Partagali Jeevottam Math in his honor.

Here are his specific contributions based on the available information:

* **Discovery of the Presiding Deity**: He discovered the sacred idol of Bhoo-Vijay Vithal (or Veer Vitthal) in a stream during his pilgrimage to the North. This idol is one of the three main movable installation (Charaprathishta) deities of the Math and is centrally worshipped.

* **Establishment of New Maths**: He established a Math at Gokarn, which led to the Math being known as "Shree Gokarn Math." He also had the main Math at Bhatkal extended.

* **Long and Influential Tenure:** He was the Mathadhipati for a long period of approximately 70 years (from Śaka 1439, or around 1518, to Śaka 1510, or 1588 A.D.). This extensive period allowed him to firmly establish the spiritual direction and influence of the Math.

* **Extensive Preaching and Pilgrimages**: He traveled the length and breadth of India on pilgrimage, which helped in spreading the faith far and wide.
He also composed a poem called "Teerthavali" (Travelogue) dealing with the pilgrimages he undertook.

* **Expansion of Saraswat Identity:** His leadership during this crucial period was instrumental in guiding the Gowda Saraswat Brahmin (GSB) community and making the Math a prominent emblem of the Saraswat identity and a rallying point for their unification.

* **Spiritual Authority**: His life was marked by extreme asceticism, renunciation, and spiritual success. Like Sriman Madhvacharya, he provided evidence of his knowledge and yogic powers to the people.

The video below captures a documentary film on the life history of the 23rd Mathadhipati, Shreemad Vidyadhiraj Teerth Swamiji, which continues the Guru Parampara that Shrimad Jeevottam Teerth Swamiji so greatly strengthened:

https://youtu.be/_tcnxItSfLw?si=Nbk7PeFO7kHJ_t6F

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Ref: AI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi **inaugurated a majestic 77-foot bronze statue of Lord Ram** at the historic Shree Samsthan Gokarn Partagali Jeevottam Math in South Goa on **November 28, 2025**.

The unveiling ceremony was part of the Math's 550th-year "Sardha Panchashatamanotsava" celebrations.

Key details about the statue and event:

- The bronze statue is 77 feet tall and was sculpted by Ram V. Sutar, known for creating the "Statue of Unity".
- It is located at the Shree Samsthan Gokarn Partagali Jeevottam Math in Partagali, Canacona.
- **Reportedly the world's tallest Lord Ram statue, it aims to boost spiritual tourism in Goa.**

- Other inaugurations included a Ramayana-themed park and museum, as well as the release of a commemorative stamp and coin.

Ref: ddnews.gov.in

PM inaugurates Ramayana Theme Park in Goa; participates in 550th-year celebrations of Math

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday unveiled a 77-feet-tall bronze statue of Lord Rama at the Shree Samsthan Gokarn Partagali Jeevottam Math in Canacona, South Goa. The ceremony marked the beginning of the Sardha Panchashatamanotsava, the 550th-year celebration of the Math.

PM Modi also inaugurated the Ramayana Theme Park developed by the Math and released a special postal stamp along with a commemorative coin.

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